SANTA'S "LITTLE ANGELS" AT WORK AND PLAY—Mrs. George Stearley, owner of the Chatterbox Day Nursery, and a few of her 3 to 5-year-olds, admire the Christmas tree that is beautifully decorated with ornaments made by all the little ones.

TERRE HAUTE, STAR 12/19/70

Chatterbox Day Nursery Has High State Rating

Mrs. George E. Stearley, owner of the Chatterbox Day Nursery, 3721 Locust St., has a corner on "happiness is." The sound of laughter and chatter rings out from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

At the present time there are 35 little three to five year olds attending the nursery school. It is here they learn to play, respect others, learn table manners, prayers and to obey their teachers.

The Chatterbox located across from Quaker Maid is recognized as one of the finest in Indiana and the largest in Terre Haute as it can acommodate 50 little ones.

This unusually charming school was opened several years ago for the care of children between three and five years of age. It is operated according to the rules and regulations of the State of Indiana, Department of Public Welfare, Indiana State Board of Health and Indiana Fire Inspectors.

The State of Indiana requires a staff member for every 10 children. Mrs. Stearley took a special two-week training course in kindergarten, nursery school management and student training at ISU this past summer. General assistant to Mrs. Stearley is Mrs. Marybelle McCullough, while Mrs. Ellen Ray serves also as an assistant. The head teacher is "Miss Connie" Crane, second teacher is "Miss Jane" Holsapple.

For the safety of the children the furnace room is fire proofed to retain fire (if one occurs) for at least one hour or so the children may reach outside safety. All doors have panic hardware placed within the reach of children so they can release them. The hot water heater has an anti-scald valve that automatically controls the water faucets at an even temperature for the children. The lighting system also meets state requirements.

Chatterbox has a very modern and very clean kitchen. Dishes and cooking utensils undergo rigid inspection regularly.

The rest room has 5 little toilet bowls, 5 little wash basins, mirrors and rolled towels placed at the right height for the children. Scheduled bathroom breaks help the children form good health habits. Children enrolling in the school, and the staff, must have medical examinations.

Mrs. Stearley called "Miss Annie" by the little ones, has furnished the nursery with furniture and accessories that delight all age groups. Each child has his name plate on his coat hanger and each takes pride in hanging his clothes properly.

The playroom is very colorful and has children's furniture and toys. The library is filled with the books they love.

The creative activities include finger painting, working with clay, scissors, crayons, mosaic puzzle and a small animal-center where they learn to play gently and handle small animals including the biggest pet of all, "Miss Chatty," a rabbit. A special time is set aside for music, exercises, snacks, hot lunch, naps and during the rest time the children lie in their own little cots and listen to a story or soft music.

Mrs. Stearley is a member of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce.

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Ft. Wayne Day Nurseries

THE STEARLEY'S CHATTERBOX CHATTERS—"Miss Susan," head teacher and registered nurse, is shown here, during one of the scheduled activities, teaching the children how to enjoy and properly handle the little guinea pig pets at Stearley's Chatterbox Day Nursery, located across the street from Quaker Maid, at 3721 Locust Street.

STAR 12-13-69

Stearley's Chatter Box Day Nursery One of the Finest

Stearley's Chatterbox Day Nursery, owned by Mrs. George E. Stearley, and located across the street from Quaker Maid at 3721 Locust St., is considered one of the finest privately owned day nurseries in Indiana.

For 22 years the Stearley's operated a restaurant in this location. The building was completely remodeled inside and out. Upon completion last Sept., it was opened for the care of children between the ages of three and five.

Stearley's Chatterbox is operated according to the rules and regulations of the State of Indiana.

It is required by the state to have a staff member for every 10 children. Space inside the building has to have 35 sq. ft. per child. The outdoor play area must have 35 to 50 sq. ft. per child and the play area enclosed by a link fence. The furnace room must be fire-proofed to retain fire (if one occurs) for at least one hour so as to enable the children to get outside to safety. All doors have panic hardwaer so children can release them. The hot water heater has an anti-scald valve that automatically controls the water faucets at an even temperature for children.

The modern and very clean kitchen. including dishes and cooking utensils ,is approved and inspected regularly by the Indiana State Board of Health. The lighting system in the day nursery meets all state requirements.

Each staff member must have a yearly exam. Before enrolling in the nursery the children must have a medical examination for their own protection as well as their little classmates.

The Chatterbox Day Nursery is licensed by the State Dept. of Public Welfare and it is the only independent licensed day care center in the city.

The day nursery can accommodate up to 50 children. The nursery is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Monday through Friday. Mrs. Stearley arrives at 6:30 a.m. to accommodate working mothers who must be at work at 7 a.m. The nursery also enrolls the little ones on a part-time basis.

Now, that you know about the rules and regulations of the Chatterbox let us find ut about the "classrooms" and activities.

"Miss Annie," as the little ones call Mrs. Stearley, and her husband, George, have built a nursery that is delightful in the eyes of all beholders. Upon entering one is amazed at the large size of the play room that is paneled in pecan, bright floors, and the brightly colored tables and chairs that are just right for the wee folk. The little cloak room has hangers for each child with a name plate and hung just the right size for little arms to hand up their clothes. Throughout the play room one will find a library filled with just the right books, a "Mother's Corner" where she may see on display the art work done by her little artist. In another corner is a house keeping area where the children love to play. "Miss Annie" even has grown-up clothes they may don and play dress-up. A TV set is placed s thechildren may set on a large rug and enjoy special programs.

There are creative activities that includes finger painting, clay, scissors, cayons, mosaic, puzzles, reading and number readiness. flannel board. There is also a special time for music, exercise and other planned activities, including live guinea pigs that are pets. The children learn how to handle animals.

The large dining room has gaily colored chairs aud tables. Each child receives a light snack in the morning and in the afternoon. At noon a well-balanced hot meal is served. The menu must be approved by the State Dept. of Public Welfare an dbe kept on file for one year. The weekly menus are posted on the front door as parents may check. The children are taught proper table manners and posture.

Each child has its own little cot in the bedroom. There is a short rest period before lunch and a two-hour nap each afternoon. "Miss Susan" Walker, the head teacher and registered nurse, reads a story to them or they listen to soft music before napping.

The restroom has 5 little toilet bowls, 5 little wash basins, mirrors and roller towels all placed at the right height for the children. Scheduled bath room breaks helps the child to form good health habits.

The Stearley's Chatterbox Day Nursery is a member of the Chamber of Commerce. The Stearley's invite parents to drop in, inspect, and see their lovely day nursery.

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